

# SAFETY BULLETIN

## SB01-019 PEDESTRIANS, VEHICLE TRAFFIC and CROSSWALKS

June 2001 (Initial)

Fort Riley recently experienced an accident where a vehicle struck a pedestrian. A soldier stepped into a marked crosswalk when the vehicle in the lane closest to him stopped to allow him to cross. The vehicle in the farther lane did not stop and struck the soldier. Fortunately, the soldier only received minor injuries.

Fort Riley averages one vehicle to pedestrian accident about every two years. However, this average could be lessened, if everyone would follow the procedures that need to be used in areas with a high density of pedestrians and vehicles, such as Custer Hill. Pedestrians and vehicle operators should follow the Kansas Uniform Traffic Codes, which are enforced on Fort Riley.

### PEDESTRIAN RESPONSIBILITIES:

- A pedestrian using a crosswalk **DOES NOT** have an absolute right-of-way against moving vehicles.
- No pedestrian shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle that is so close as to constitute an immediate hazard.
- Every pedestrian crossing a roadway at any point, other than within a marked or an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection, shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles upon entering the roadway.

### VEHICLE OPERATOR RESPONSIBILITIES:

- The driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way; slow down or stop, if need be, to yield to pedestrians crossing the roadway within a crosswalk.
- The driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way when the pedestrian is entering the roadway, upon which the vehicle is traveling, or when the pedestrian is approaching so closely from the opposite half of the roadway as to be in danger.
- When vehicles stop at a marked or unmarked crosswalk or an intersection to permit a pedestrian to cross the roadway, the vehicle approaching from the rear, no matter which lane, shall not overtake and pass such stopped vehicles.

Both pedestrians and vehicle operators need to use "reasonable judgment" and be prepared to yield to one another. Neither have exclusive right-of-way. Remember it is not true that pedestrians can start crossing at any time or road location and expect moving vehicles to stop!

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